

**From:** Eric Hughes  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 10:38am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a private citizen and software professional, I am troubled by proposed settlement in the Microsoft anti-trust case.

As a computer scientist, I'm most troubled by the illogical definitions of "API" and "middleware", which considerably weaken the relevance of the proposed settlement, and in some cases negatively impact the competitive practices of other vendors, which the settlement *should* be helping instead.

As a US citizen, I'm left with the feeling that a great deal of time and money were spent to address illegal practices by Microsoft, but this investment will have no lasting benefit. It appears that the few potentially meaningful actions in the proposed settlement are eviscerated by simple loopholes, like changes to the names or version numbers of Microsoft products. The proposed settlement fails to identify Windows-compatible operating systems like Linux, which have an important role in the PC software market. In my opinion, this further erodes the position of US vendors in this crucial global market.

I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed settlement in light of the findings of fact in the case.

Thank you,  
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